Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system comprising: a processing system comprising memory; and a communication adapter adapted to be coupled to a transmission medium, wherein the processing system further comprises: logic to receive a sleep message from a power management system; and logic to place the communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message; said communication adapter is adapted to save data local to said communication adapter in said memory prior to transitioning to said sleep state.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively lower a speed of a clock signal to control the communication adapter.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 2, wherein the processing system[[s]] further comprises logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and logic to

selectively lower the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a

predetermined clock speed.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the processing system further comprises:

logic to determine a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in

response to the sleep message; and logic to selectively command the communication adapter to

use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first

communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the processing system further comprises

logic to place the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a data bus

coupled between the communication adapter and the processing system, and wherein the

processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command on the data bus

addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a clock signal frequency

and a communication protocol in response to the sleep message.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An article comprising a storage medium comprising machine-

readable instructions stored thereon for: receiving a sleep message; and saving data local to a

communication adapter in system memory; and placing [[a]] said communication adapter in a

sleep state in response to the sleep message.

Claim 9 (original): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises

machine-readable instructions stored thereon for selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal to

control the communication adapter.

Claim 10 (original): The article of claim 9, wherein the storage medium further comprises

machine-readable instructions stored thereon for selectively lowering the speed of the clock from

a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication

adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first protocol and the second

clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium

according to a second protocol.

Claim 11 (original): The article of claim 9, wherein the storage medium further comprises

machine-readable instructions stored thereon for: determining the speed of the clock signal in

response to the sleep message; and selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed

of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed.

Claim 12 (original): The article of claim 9, wherein the storage medium further comprises

machine-readable instructions stored thereon for: determining a first communication protocol

being used by the communication adapter in response to the sleep message; and selectively

commanding the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate

or clock signal frequency associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 13 (original): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises

machine-readable instructions stored thereon for placing the communication adapter in an auto-

sensing state in response to a resume message.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method comprising: receiving a sleep message; and saving

data local to a communication adapter in system memory; and placing [[a]] said communication

adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises selectively

lowering a speed of a clock signal to control the communication adapter.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises selectively

lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock

speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium

according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the

communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second

communication protocol.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and selectively

lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined

clock speed.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises:

determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in

response to the sleep message; and selectively commanding the communication adapter to use a

second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the first

communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises placing the

communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus comprising: means for receiving a sleep message;

means for saving data local to a communication adapter in system memory; and means for

placing [[a]] said communication adapter in a sleep state in response to the sleep message.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises means

for selectively lowering a speed of a clock signal to control the communication adapter.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the apparatus further comprises means

for selectively lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed,

wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a

transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed

controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to

a second communication protocol.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the apparatus further comprises: means

for determining the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message; and means for

selectively lowering the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a

predetermined clock speed.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the apparatus further comprises: means

for determining a first communication protocol being used by the communication adapter in

response to the sleep message; and means for selectively commanding the communication

adapter to use a second communication protocol if a data rate or clock signal associated with the

first communication protocol exceeds a threshold.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the apparatus further comprises means

for placing the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message.

Claims 26 (new): The system of claim 1, wherein said communication adapter is further adapted to retrieve said local data saved in said memory when said communication adapter resumes to a full power state.

Claim 27 (new): The article of claim 8, wherein the storage medium further comprises machine readable instructions stored thereon for retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for retrieving said data local to said communication adapter saved in said system memory upon said communication adapter resuming a full power state.